From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: km@PACT.ORG.PE (Kris Merschrod)
Subject: [4370] 40 meter QRP Ants and " True QRP"
Message-ID: <m0tnYyT-000O05C@rcp.net.pe>

I agree with Bill,

    including soil conductivity is going too far. Yes, QRP is the
salt of the earth, but why go in for environmental degredation for
the sake of your ant farm.

As reported before - the only variable related to QRP contest scores
is the time at the key - number of elements and ERP does not explain
anything. Of course the 3 element quad 40 meters did enhance the
sunsets, and the bamboo experts on a mission from China did tell the
XYL that it was a beautiful "thing."

73,

Kris
OA4DBO

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: bruce@net.com (Bruce Florip)
Subject: [4358] 40-9er info de aa7ar/6
Message-ID: <9602161923.AA23772@trappist.net.com>

Hi 40-9ers and qrp-lers

     Since I got a number of replys from my post I about the 40-9er I've decided
to
post to the list.

First there were questions regarding what parts to buy, what type of ICs are used,
and
where to buy the parts:

>From Doug kI6DS a few days back:

Subject: 49er Parts List

Hey great idea Byron, you asked for the parts list for the 49er, so here it
is. All resistors are 1/4W 5%, all caps in pF are NPO disc ceramic, and the
lead spacing on the electrolytics is .08. Here is the list with Mouser
and Digikey Part Numbers.

C1,C7	22pF NPO 141-100N5-022J	Mouser
C2,C6	9-50pF Trimcap 24AA024	Mouser
C3,C8	.01uF Mono 21RZ410	Mouser
C11,C15		
C16,C19		
C4,C17	270pF NPO 140-CD50S5-271J	Mouser
C5,C14	82pF NPO 141-100N5-082J	Mouser
C9	3.3uF/25V Elect. or Tant. 208-50V3.3	Mouser
C10	.47uF Mono 581-470NJ63	Mouser
C12	220uF/25V Elect. 208-25V220	Mouser
C13	22uF/25V Elect. 208-50V22	Mouser
C18	470pF NPO 140-CD50S-471J	Mouser
C20	150pF NPO 140-CD50N6151K	Mouser
D1,D2	1N4148	
R1	1K Trimpot 323-5000-1K	Mouser
R2	10 ohm	
R3	10M	
R4,R6	120 ohm	
R5	56K	
R7	10K	
RFC1,5	2.2uH 43LS226	Mouser
RFC2	82mH (Note that is correct, mH!!) 434-02-823J	Mouser
RFC3	1mH 43LS103	Mouser
RFC4,6	15uH 43LS155	Mouser
Q1	J309 or J310 or 2N5484	Newark Electronics
Q2	2N3904	
Q3	2N3866 or 2SC799 or 2N3553	Mouser
U1	NE602AN	HSC Electronics 1-800-442-5833
U2	LM380-N	Digikey
U3	78L05 333-78L05AP	Mouser
XTAL	7.040	available from HSC for $2.95 each.

There you have it. Now for those of you who missed the first posting of the 49er, it is a simple 40 meter transceiver with QSK, VXO that covers 5 kHz, DC receiver, and fits inside an Altoids or Sucrets box. It runs on 9 or 12 volts, your choice. Boards are available from NorCal, Jim Cates, 3241 Eastwood Rd., Sacramento, CA 95821. Cost is $5.00 postpaid. Clubs and groups can buy 10 or more boards for $4 each. The entire artice is being published in both the March issue of QRPp and the April issue of QRP Quarterly. If you positively can't wait, send a business sized S.A.S.E to me and $1 and I will send you a copy of the article. The 49er circuit was designed by Wayne Burdick, N6KR and the circuit board layout was done by me, KI6DS. Far Circuits did the boards, and they are single sided, not plated through, not solder masked, and do have a silkscreen of the parts layout. The rig works really well, the first signal that I copied was K5FO in Dallas running .95 Watts!! Hope this helps. 72, Doug

>From dh%reddog.csustan.edu@altair.csustan.edu Sun Feb 11 03:26:41 1996
Subject: 49er Parts List Addendum

Guys, if you send Jim a check or money order, PLEASE make it out to Jim Cates and NOT NorCal. 72, Doug

Then, because the crystals cost $2.95... heres a socket solution. Note when I asked an anonymous surplus store how much are small crystals they said 87 cents, except for 7040 khz, those are about 3 bucks... so use a socket and move it from rig to rig!

Subject: Crystal Socket Sub

Denis Englander came up with positively a great idea at the Feb. meeting of the NorCal QRP Club. He had made a dual band Pixie, (no that is not the great idea) in an Altoids box. The great idea that he came up with is so simple and so obvious, I don't know why I didn't think of it long ago. He used an IC socket, or part of one, for a crystal socket. How? Use one of the machined sockets, and cut it in half. Now, trim it until there are 3 pins left. Use this as the crystal socket! The pin spacing is .1" and the crystal (in HC49 holder) has pins with .2" spacing. So all that you have to do is clip the middle pin of the 3, and voila, an instant crystal socket.

Those of you who have been playing with the Pixie and the will play with the 49er take note. Now you don't have to solder that $3 crystal in the rig! Use the same rock in several rigs. Thanks Denis for teaching me a neat new trick. 72, Doug, KI6DS

Permission is granted for anyone to reprint this in any club or non-profit publication. Please give Denis, KD6ETI, the credit for a great idea.

For Stan & others unfamiliar with ALTROIDS(sic)...

ALTOIDS: From Callard & Browser
"The Original Celebrated
Curiously Strong
Peppermints"

Made In Great Britain
Net WT 1.75 OZ (49.6g)

SIZE: Internal Approximately

3+9/16" long
2+3/16" wide
3/4" deep

You will find "ALTOIDS" in the Yuppie candy section of your favorite super market or drug emporium... We even have them here in Alaska so distribution must be far and wide... I have purchased them in Florida so that about covers the US...

For those familiar with the "SUCRETS" box, the ALTOIDS is about the same width but slightly deeper and somewhat wider... SUCRETS: 3+1/16" long, 2+5/16" wide, 11/16" deep...

If you can't find them I would be happy to ship one to you for cost...It would include the peppermints or course... Have fun Gang, I am sending for my board tomorrow, amassing the parts this week, and furiously eating ALTOIDS even as we speak...

72/73/OO's - Bruce * KL7JAF

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: bruce@net.com (Bruce Florip)
Subject: [4367] 40-9er progress 2 @ aa7ar/6
Message-ID: <9602162213.AA24954@trappist.net.com>

Success! The 40-9er is complete and functional!

This project has been a lot of fun! And as advertized, it is very frequency stable. With the frequency counter hooked to the input of the driver transistor (2n3904), an set to a random frequency of 7.03875 Mhz I could swing the power supply voltage from 7.0 to 16.0 volts with no frequency change. (Range is 7038 to 7043khz)

The power out on my rig is slightly less than advertized:
    90 mW at 9.0 VDC
    120 mW at 12.0 VDC
    210 mW at 16.0 VDC

I'm going to take a look at that tonight to see if it was one of my surplus components, or if that's the way it is.

I also notice that the cap on the front end is at maximum capacitance when it peaks, so I'll play with that a bit too.

I used the receiver both with phones and a small amplified speaker and both work fine. It doesn't have extra gain, but it is enough to copy the ._. .._. .._. beacon at 7039 or so...

Also heard NG0MN working HJ5YMU last night about 11 P.M. California time.

so, the receiver works, the transmitter works, so I'll give it a shot on
the air tonight after work.

Also, to answer a couple more questions that some of the guys sent:

Here in the San Jose/Santa Clara (Silicon Valley) Area my surplus store favorites
are: Halted (Sunnyvale), Haltek (Mountain View), Alltronics (San Jose),
Surplus Solutions (Milpitas),
Just-in-Time ICs (Fremont), Advanced Component Engineers "ACE" (Santa Clara),
with an occasional stop at Anchor Electronics (Santa Clara) and Curtis Trading
Company (Milpitas).

The guess for cost of parts for the 40-9er:

>From no junk box and retail store prices, a high of $30 to good junk box and
surplus
stores a price of $10 U.S.

So I guess the answer should be about $20 buck and a day of driving around...

73 and don't forget to check 7038 to 7043 for a puny signal :)

Bruce AA7AR/6 Santa Clara, CA. USA

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: aa7qy@primenet.com (Roger Hightower)
Subject: [4362] 49er Info
Message-ID: <199602162104.OAA02887@usr3.primenet.com>

 When I placed a parts order with Mouser, the order-taker called me back and
said there was a problem with two of the numbers. After some discussion,
she gave me these corrections:

        C18, 470pF NPO cap is part # 140-C050S5-471J

        U3, 78L05 regulator is part # 333-ML78L05A

Also, HSC has NO NE602AN's....can't find 'em anywhere. If anyone has two
they can spare, pse let me know.

I ordered a bunch of LM380-AN from DigiKey to save the shipping. They should be
here in abt a week, and when I get them I will post the info. Will gladly
pass them
on to whoever needs them at actual cost and only a fraction of the shipping.

72/73, de Roger, AA7QY

NorCal 1099 CoQRP 176 QRP-L 62 G-QRP 9081 ARCI 8946 NE-QRP 383

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Ed DeBuvitz <edeb@indirect.com>
Subject: [4324] 49er?
Message-ID: <Pine.BSD/.3.91.960216072527.23677A-100000@bud.indirect.com>

I musta missed the original (and a few more after that) posts about the 49er. Can someone 'splain what it is. I have a closetful of Altoid boxes that could be put to good use.
Oh yes...glad to finally be able to work 40 meters. Put up a center fed antenna a few weeks ago...got the Fox last time he was on and plan to be a regular on the band again.

Tnx...Ed W5TTE
edeb@indirect.com

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: kreinbd@ccgate.dl.nec.com (David Kreinberg)
Subject: [4373] 4B OR NOT 4B??
Message-ID: <9601168245.AA824521078@smtpgw.ccgate.dl.nec.com>

Folks:

Many thanks to all who wrote with help on the WWV signal with the new vertical antenna.

Group ideas seem to verge on a 10 or 15MHz trap to kill the offending signal. I'll be working on it and will let you all know.

A new question: last evening i worked 4B1CO. Where in the world (literally) is this QTH?? Not on my DX chart, and he signed before letting me know. Got a 599 with the new vertical and 2 watts on 20m about 0000Z.

Thanks

de Dave KK5HA

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: kreinbd@ccgate.dl.nec.com (David Kreinberg)
Subject: [4374] 4B OR NOT 4B??
Message-ID: <9601168245.AA824509223@smtpgw.ccgate.dl.nec.com>

Folks:

Many thanks to all who wrote with help on the
WWV signal with the new vertical antenna.

Group ideas seem to verge on a 10 or 15MHz trap
to kill the offending signal. I'll be working on
it and will let you all know.

A new question: last evening i worked 4B1CO. Where
in the world (literally) is this QTH?? Not on my
DX chart, and he signed before letting me know. Got
a 599 with the new vertical and 2 watts on 20m about
0000Z.

Thanks

de Dave KK5HA

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: kreinbd@ccgate.dl.nec.com (David Kreinberg)
Subject: [4377] 4B OR NOT 4B??
Message-ID: <9601168245.AA824516949@smtpgw.ccgate.dl.nec.com>

Folks:

Many thanks to all who wrote with help on the
WWV signal with the new vertical antenna.

Group ideas seem to verge on a 10 or 15MHz trap
to kill the offending signal. I'll be working on
it and will let you all know.

A new question: last evening i worked 4B1CO. Where

in the world (literally) is this QTH?? Not on my
DX chart, and he signed before letting me know. Got
a 599 with the new vertical and 2 watts on 20m about
0000Z.

Thanks

de Dave KK5HA

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Thom.LaCosta@f0.n105.z105.fido261.qis.net (Thom LaCosta)
Subject: [4379] ARLB011 Vanity calls delayed
Message-ID: <676_9602162038@fido261.qis.net>

* Copied (from: w1aw_news) by Thom LaCosta using timEd 1.10+.

SB QST @ ARL $ARLB011
ARLB011 Vanity calls delayed

ZCZC AG90
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 11 ARLB011
>From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT February 15, 1996
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB011
ARLB011 Vanity calls delayed

ARRL has learned that the FCC may delay until mid-1996 the announcement of when it plans to open the first gate or gates of the vanity call sign program. A Commission spokesman says the FCC first wants to deal with remaining Petitions for Reconsideration it has received. The FCC had been expected to announce opening dates early this year.

FCC vanity call sign application Form 610V is now available, but the FCC will not accept completed forms until it opens the appropriate filing gates.

Prospective applicants can get the FCC Form 610V package by writing ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please include an sase. Form 610V also is available from the FCC via the Internet at http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form610V or ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/Form610V/, or by fax at 202-418-0177.

Ask for Form 006108.

The FCC's Forms Distribution Center also accepts orders for Form
610V at 800-418-3676.

--
|Internet: Thom.LaCosta@f0.n105.z105.fido261.qis.net
|Standard disclaimer: This user speaks only for him/her self.

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: KFGlynn@aol.com
Subject: [4342] Code Speed
Message-ID: <960216111105_424150588@emout04.mail.aol.com>

Hello everyone,

I was able to pass the Extra CW element by working other hams. I learned 5 wpm with the Gordon West tapes from RS. Looking back it may have been better to get tapes from ARRL since the exam I took was at 18 wpm Farnsworth not the slightly slower Farnsworth tapes from RS. That was in Nov 94. Passed General CW element in May 95 and Extra CW element last month. Worked many DX stations during summer months on 20 meters. Over 75% of all contacts in log book are CW. A couple of guys in my local club told me that the best way to get the speed and operating skills up was to work CW - with QSB, QRN, QRM, etc. They were right. For me, having to copy a live conversation is no comparison to tapes or a PC program.

73 de Kevin KB2TEO

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Mike Robinson <miker@cc.com>
Subject: [4361] Code speed and copy
Message-ID: <9602162101.AA14540@voder.nsc.com>

After drafting class and labeling drawings at
work, I migrated to always writing in block
print.

Once I started copying code, I had to force
myself back to cursive. Now my cursive is
better than ever and I can copy relatively

quickly. I skip crossing T's and dotting
I's unless I get a lull after that particular
word.

The best way to increase speed is to have
QSO's. I didn't need to study for 13wpm.
I did have to push for 20 though.

GET ON THE AIR!

Answer the guy that's sending just faster
than you think you can copy. Your adrenaline
will rush and you'll do a lot better than
you think.

My 2 watts worth...

=-=
In the dawn of a new century, lets upgrade our unit of
measurement. Ban the yard and the meter.
Measure everything in terms of light speed.

Light travels about 1 foot in 1 nano-second.

Make a football field 300 nano-seconds long.
I am 6 nano-seconds tall.
It's about 16 milli-seconds from L.A. to New York.
=-=
7.3 de Michael AA0UB   miker@cc.com   michael@frii.com
http://www.frii.com/~michael
QRP-L #126   Norcal #857   CQC #180
=-=

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Nick Franco <kf2ph@bnl.gov>
Subject: [4363] Code Speed, etc.
Message-ID: <3124F388.4CF8@bnl.gov>

Hi gang,

Been following this thread for a few days now. Just had to add my 2 mW
worth. If you really want to see a noticable increase in code speed and
copy ability.. take your favorite little rig and battery, etc. and buy
yourself a Hamstick vertical for that band you like so much, and work
mobile QRP. It's a blast and you have to copy in your head. You will
automatically build speed and copy because you don't have to write

anything down after a while. You can find someone out there at just about any speed you can handle. You can even go back to the Novice band just to get the hang of copying in your head. Try it you'll like it!

Next thing you know you'll be copying in your head at the main rig also.

Have a great weekend all - Enjoy the snow if you're in the same boat as LI is right now.

72
Nick

--
****
Nick Franco - http://www.rhichome.bnl.gov/People/franco/
Brookhaven National Laboratory - RHIC Project
tel: (516) 344-5467 <>< Ham Call: KF2PH
fax: (516) 344-3674 QRP-NE # 349 QRP-L # 13

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: PDouglas12@aol.com
Subject: [4352] Copyright
Message-ID: <960216124009_145915090@emout08.mail.aol.com>

Gang,

I am definitely not an intellectual property lawyer. I am a lawyer. I just read the statute because it has been many years since I needed to know this stuff. For all of our information, this is what we need to know, I think. (Disclaimer first--I am a lawyer, after all--this is oversimplified and if you are really going to protect a valuable work, don't use this--see an appropriate lawyer who does this kind of work!)

First, as one of our members is fond of saying, (fair use?) you own your own words.

To put others on notice that you do not want them using your words without permission, you put on a notice of copyright. The notice has three elements: 1. a "C" in a circle (difficult to do online) or the word "copyright" . 2. The year of first publication. 3. The name of the copyright holder. The purpose of the notice is to tell a potential poacher that he has no excuse or defense that his copying was "innocent."

I had been putting copyright notices on my reviews and stuff last year, but have gotten lazy. Chuck's posting is a good reminder. Generally, I enjoy being published and, like most of us, freely grant permission. But it is

nice to maintain control. This posting will have a notice of copyright below for example (and legal) purposes.

For those who are interested, the statute is Federal Law, USC Title 17. You can read it for yourself in any library. It is in English, but it is a whole volume, so the above is obviously not all you need to know if you are writing a novel.

72, All
Preston

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: lhalliday@creo.bc.ca
Subject: [4372] Eek! Surface mount! (was: National Semiconductor devices)
Message-ID: <9601168245.AA824513724@mail.creo.bc.ca>

I keep seeing people writing things like:

> These days, when you're ordering from people like Digi-Key (who are
> supplying lots of surface mount stuff) you really have to watch out
> for the package - you could get one of the really tiny surface
> mounted chips instead of what you really wanted...

So what *is* the phobia about surface-mount? I find myself using surface mount more and more these days; while soldering by hand can't achieve the component densities of commercial reflow processes, it's pretty good. And you'll never worry about lead inductance again. Even PLCC shouldn't be that much of a terror - won't the solder wick in under the leads? Hmmm...have to try it. Mini-Circuits make some nice mixers (JMS series) that would be good candidates for such an experiment. They're even cheaper than the ubiquitous SBL-1...

The main drawbacks I see are that big inductors and capacitors are impossible, and that some parts (e.g. chip resistors and capacitors) are uneconomic to buy in small (< 10) quantities. OK, yes, surplus availability is approximately nil. Which isn't *that* bad, because you are getting brand new, first quality parts.

While MOQs on things like chip capacitors can be high (Digi-Key's is 100, and Mouser's might as well be when you look at the unit prices), you can buy prototyping kits with 10 or 20 each of all the 5% values at very reasonable prices - look at the ads in the back of QEX.

Even if numbers like SOT-23 and 0805 scare the crap out of you, one

application that everybody should be aware of is using chip capacitors for decoupling - they fit perfectly between the traces on most PC boards (I stock 0805 and 1206 sizes for this), and bypass things with zero additional inductance.

Laura Halliday VE7LDH
lhalliday@creo.bc.ca
ve7ldh@amsat.org
Locator: CN89mg

"C'est une femme mutine, assez elegante, grave et legere, ayant le sens du confort et du plaisir en tout." - C. Deneuve

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Brad Mugleston <bmug@gwl.com>
Subject: [4344] GROUP PURCHASE
Message-ID: <199602161456.AA03319@gp-ipc54.gwl.com>

Gang,

I want this GROUP to help me PURCHASE a radio. After 1 1/2 months with my Tech+ and still no contacts at 2.3W Im taking the advice of some of you outthere and looking to purchase something with a little more power - TO LEARN and IMPROVE MY SKILLS.

I have found an ICOM 745. It is loaded - all the options but a sideband filter (it has the FM Module and the internal Keyer). I found a writeup on it in a September 1985 QST - looks good. Price new about $1,500 with all the goodies. My questions are - has anyone had any experances with a 745, what is it worth, the article mentioned that the microprossor code is stored in RAM and when the battery goes dead you have to send it to ICOM to get re programed - IS THIS A BIG DEAL? Can a local shop do it? Can I?

Last big question - will it do QRP? If so how?

Thanks for the help

de KB0ROL, Brad - still waiting for my first one.

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: WD6BOR@aol.com
Subject: [4380] Kent keys?
Message-ID: <960216220054_224194724@emout07.mail.aol.com>

Could someone please post the address and phone number for Kent Keys? I wasn't able to find an ad in QST. Also, any pricing info you might have. I

saw one at the last Norcal meeting and was very impressed.

TNX es 72,
Darrel, WD6BOR

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Bernard Seront <seront@seism1.ess.sunysb.edu>
Subject: [4365] LM380 Datasheet is online
Message-ID: <2.2.32.19960216214635.006ff618@seism1.ess.sunysb.edu>

Back to QRP topics:

I just found the data sheet and application note for the LM380 online, point your web browser to:

http://webdirect.natsemi.com/nscO/o

and make a search for LM380.
(teh sheets are in PDF format).

Someone was asking for a more powerful audio amp for in car use, you have the LM2005 for that (20 W, 13.8 V power supply, the type of thing you find in car cassettes).
If you really want more power, they even have the LM12, an op-amp which delivers 80W into 4ohms at 0.01% distortion (+-30V p.s.)! HiFi quality with only a couple of resistors caps and diodes needed.

In short, this site contains A LOT of information including a section "wireless" that might be of interest.

Good web surfing.

Bernard, KB2TGH.

Bernard Seront, seront@seism1.ess.sunysb.edu
http://rock.ess.sunysb.edu:8080/

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Brad Mugleston <bmug@gwl.com>
Subject: [4375] Minature Fox Hunt
Message-ID: <199602162334.AA10880@gp_zeus.gwl.com>

Gang,

This monday, February 19th at 8:00am MST (I believe that should be 15:00 UTC) my son Derek
KB0SJY and myself KB0ROL will be calling CQ and/or answering CQ's. We just got our Tech+ about 1 month ago and are working on our code. Derek has one QSO, I have none.

We will be operating an Explorer II on or about 7.110 + -. We also could be around 7.130 which seems to be clean at our house.

Derek needs a challange (hes code is much better than mine) me on the other hand need some
experance - Please be kind.

Thanks again, see ya Monday

Brad - KB0ROL

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: V$BCIESLAK@qtiworld.com
Subject: [4339] More and More on code practice
Message-ID: <01I19ZAR1G2A00AOFD@hub.qgraph.com>

Here's a test to se how fast you can really write letters down, a major excuse for slow speed operation.

our radio club did an experiment with a tape prepared that some one spoke out random letters at various speed. When you heard 'A' you wrote down A. etc. Amazingly enough even the youngest ham could copy at a rate of 30 wpm with only a few missed characters. (30 is as high as we went). So they had no problem hearing the characters and writing them down because they were extremely familiar with the sounds of the letters.

Now just imagine if you knew the code well enough so when you heard "dit-dah" you wrote down an 'A' jsut as if you head some one say "A".

You just have to know the code just a well as you know the alphabet.
(Now if I only new how to type as well as I can write down a character I'ld be in good shape)

Brian AE9K

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996

From: mack@mails.imed.com
Subject: [4333] More on code practice
Message-ID: <9601168244.AA824491855@mails.imed.com>

There has been a thread here recently on code practice. I thought I would add my $0.02 worth and my experiences. This is probably not directly interesting to most on this list since the majority are Extra class, but hopefully most are elmers for those coming up and you can pass this on.

I just took the 13 WPM test 2 weeks ago and passed it (try number 10 during 23 years). I attribute this to *ONE* thing I changed this time around: I used a computer to type in the code as I copied. (By the way I used a VERY old version of Super Morse to practice). I probably spent less than 15 hours of practice between time at the computer and a weekly schedule on the air with a friend to go from 6 WPM up to 13+ WPM.

Part of what I do as an engineer is watch HOW people do the user interface with machines (human factors analysis). With that training I noticed that what kept *killing* my speed was *not* copying the code, but rather being able to write it down without thinking about how I do that task. Each character except "l" and "1" requires at least 2 strokes of the pencil; a keyboard requires only one stroke for all characters. A friend of my wife who is an Occupational Therapist also reminded me that I am left handed and that the design of the letters is backwards for us which makes it doubly hard.

I called 2 VE people before deciding which session to attend. One absolutely refused to let me use the computer to copy. The other said it was quite acceptable and part of what they are required to do to accomodate the physical needs of exam candidates. This site was held by a very friendly and supportive team of examiners!

I hope my experiences can be of help to others trying to increase their speed.

Ray Mack
WD5IFS/AA
mack@mails.imed.com

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: "Bob Scott" <Bob_Scott@cpqm.saic.com>
Subject: [4335] Newsletter Articles
Message-ID: <n1387666524.17853@cpqm.saic.com>

Folks,
  I believe that this has been discussed before, but I cannot remember the outcome. What is the practice or rules concerning the publication of articles in a ham club newsletter that have appeared in a a different ham newsletter ? Does one write to the originator of the article for permission or the newsletter editor/publisher? I may be taking over my club's newsletter and one of the problems is the lack of contributors. Since tons of stuff flows by me between this list and the boatanchors list plus the several QRP newsletters/pubs I get, I figure I could do some backfilling without too much trouble. I just do not want to abuse it by including stuff without permission.   Thanks.

      73, Bob   AC4QO   ...   AFA2CY Woodbridge, VA

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Steve Bornstein <saborns@freenet.columbus.oh.us>
Subject: [4334] OHR AGC MODS FOR OHR-400, CLASSIC, SPIRIT II
Message-ID: <Pine.3.07.9602161052.A5895-a100000@acme>

Attention all OHR owners:

I just got off the phone to Dick at OHR. The following is his latest AGC mod for the OHR-400, Classic, and Spirit II.

       On OHR-400:   1. For board # 40-177 Version C
                            Replace R-235 (presently 22K) with 10K
                            Replace D-201 with 1N5817

                        2. For board # 40-177 Version B
                            Replace R-237 (presently 22K) with 10K
                            Replace D-203 with 1N5817

                        3. For Classic and Spirit II
                            Circuit is the same

                        Obtaining Parts: Dick has offered to send
                        the parts to those wishing mod. Contact him
                        via e-mail @ OHRQRP@aol.com

                        THIS NOTICE SUPERCEDES PREVIOUS POSTINGS ON
                        THE SUBJECT.

73, Steve K8IDN QRP-L #331

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: "David E. Shelton" <deshel01@homer.louisville.edu>
Subject: [4326] OHR QRP Classic Kit
Message-ID: <Pine.OSF.3.91.960216092405.8636A-100000@homer.louisville.edu>

Hello,

I just wanted to post up this bulletin concerning the OHR QRP Classic. I just finished the rig last week and was not able to align do to several problems. All my own fault due to being my first kit and not being consistent with all my solder joints. Another reason according to Dick at OHR was the Radio Shack 60/40 solder used. I have used this solder for the last few years and had not problems. However, Dick at OHR stated the solder does not produce consistently good connections.

I love the Classic it is a very nice rig, not in the same league with my Argo II but it does do a very nice job. The same afternoon I got it back from OHR for alignment I worked Arkansas running the full 5W via a 5A PS. The AR stn gave me a strong 579 with the Butternut HF2V vertical I run. I am getting used to the QSK and optional keyer I installed. The QSK is not in the same category as Ten Tec, actually it is semi-QSK. Even with the speed up to around 20wpm I fail to hear the receiver in between. Drift is minimal after 5-10min and the receiver output is clean and quiet very similar to the sensitivity level of my Icom 728 rig.

All in all a great little rig. The next one I will align myself one way or another. I can say I learned so much on this first time around on the kit building. I will take my time on soldering and construction next time. With particular attention to the details of the schematics.

73/72,

____
David E. Shelton, RN, BSN KE4FPS |
                                      |
University of Louisville, SON |
deshel01@homer.louisville.edu |
102551,1470@compuserve.com |
KE4FPS@WD9AGK.#SIN.IN.USA.NA (packet) |
"Every Patient Deserves A Nurse!" |
                                      |
QRP ARCI #9079 FISTS #2103 QRP-L #142 |
_____________________________________|

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: svein@eci1.ucsb.edu (Svein Vetti)
Subject: [4359] PCB program - research
Message-ID: <9602161953.AA25997@orchid.ucsb.edu>

Hi, since I've gotten a lot of good answers to my questions from the list, I feel it is time that I contribute with some on my knowledge. In my struggle to build a low power/cheap/single channel VHF receiver, I had to find a PCB program to work with. I spent two weeks, at least, downloading demos and trying them out. You do not wanna do that !

My goal was to find a WORKING windows based PCB program without too many limitations. Here is what I found, hope it is helpful to some of you:

PROTEL - has a lot of programs on the marked and a nice web side. You can download them from their page. The oldest dos version is a free working program called EASYTRAX. I did not find a lot of "how to use" info, but I did not spend much time with it, after all, who wants to struggle with an old dos program. Their newest windows program is called Advanced PCB, don't even spend time downloading it: You cannot save or print from it.

PADS - a dos program with a lot of "how to use" info available, I did not have the right graphical card or something, so I could not try it out. I think the demo is limited to 30 parts, not bad.

QUICKROUT - This is made by an English company, I have not located their web page (if they have one). They sent me a demo disk. Can't save in the program, but othervise it seems nice. This is probably the cheapest program you can get (windows), (150 Pounds) and you can gradually expand it to better performance (autorout) if you have the money.

? - There where at least one more windows program that I tried out, but I cannot remember the name. They all had the same problem - no saving (or printing).

So far it looks pretty bad, and I felt pretty shity after throwing away 2 weeks of the quarter instead of building my receiver. Then someone heard my prayers and WINBOARD landed in my snail mail box (OK ,I had probably forgotten that I requested the program by e-mail).

IVEX - This company makes a windows based program called WINBOARD. They have a web side where I think you can download their program. You can (at least with my demo version that came in the mail) save and print as much as you like, and it has a superb online help. The limitation is 100 pads/vias which is easy to work around if your into SMD as I am. It also have a great library. It does not have autorout. You need a 486/8 to run the program.

With WINBOARD and transperancies on a HP 600 inc-jet (< $ 300)I've gotten
excellent results.

The web sites for these companies can be found with a net search, there is
also a very nice FAQ on pcb available.

If you have any questions about some of this, feel free to e-mail me.

-Svein Vetti

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: [4322] QRP Afield April 1996
Message-ID: <199602161327.NAA18900@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Gang,

I just got the issue of 72 from the NE Club.

I note that for the above they are allowing
30M. We, i.e. the NorTex Group, did not know
that during the last contest (at least from the
comments from the last contest) that people
were looking on 30M.

Looks like we're going to have to rethink the
antenna situation and make sure to have some
good ones up for 30M.

There's a good chance that I'll be /5 in NM
for this one. Can't pass up chance to see
two comets.

dit dit
--
Chuck Adams (K5FO CP-60) adams@sgi.com
Box 181150, Dallas, TX 75218-8150

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: GREGOIRE@ENDOR.COM (ERNEST GREGOIRE)
Subject: [4371] qrp+ make-over
Message-ID: <199602162329.SAA54419@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

Hello Gang,

As it was reported here on the list, the Index Labs co. is offering a
make over of the orriginal QRP+, and is restarting the 1 year warrantee.

My scheduled bench time is for March 14. Turn around is promised in one day.
I always liked the QRP+ even though it has, "Personality",shall we say!
Bruce said that a varistor scheme on the front end fixed the "Glass Jaw",
and it should be able to take more of a static discharge. My rig has
already had some mods at the Index lab. The AGC, keyer and birdie problem
has all been addressed. So for a brand new set of boards, a tune up, and
a gudder-en-new sticker on the windshield, I'm eagerly awaiting the shipping
and subsequent arrival of the New QRP+.

So now we will see just how good is in a side by side with the Argo556.
It should be fun.

de AA1IK N.E.-QRP-C. # 202 (Lead by example, It is better to)
QRP-L member #95. (pull a string than it is to push it.)
Ernie Gregoire
RR 1 Box 221
Canaan, NH. 03741

New England QRP Club, information
available on request by sending me a
S.A.S.E. or via E-mail.

e-mail : GREGOIRE@ENDOR.COM
packet : AA1IK@WA1WOK.FN43FE.NH.USA

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Larry East <LVE1@inel.gov>
Subject: [4349] QRP+ Mods
Message-ID: <2.2.16.19960216164405.25bf5c50@garnet.inel.gov>

This is for all of you QRP+ owners who a are not afraid to muck about in the
innards of your great little toy to make it even better!

1. Eliminating keying thump.

When the rig is keyed, a transient is induced on the +12V power buss that
causes a low frequency "thump" in the audio output; this is most noticeable
when using headphones. The magnitude of the thump depends on the "stiffness"

of the 12V power source as well as the low frequency response of the headphones used.

Some time ago Norbert, DL8BDF, posted a fix for this problem; his solution was to increase the size of the decoupling cap and resistor to the LM386 audio IC.

I have a somewhat simpler solution: simply change C35 -- the bypass cap on pin 7 of the LM386 -- form the original 0.1uF to a electrolytic or tantalum cap in the range 4.7uF to 10uF. The purpose of the bypass on pin 7 is to decouple the high gain input stage of the LM386 from the power source and the recommend size is of the order of 4.7uF; 0.1 is just not enough to keep the keying induced transient from getting through. (Increasing the size of this cap will also reduce hum from poorly filter power supplies.)

I replaced C35 with a 4.7uF dipped tantalum and for good measure swapped C40 and C41. This swap results in a little more decoupling to the LM386 and a slight reduction in its low frequency response. These changes resulted in the complete elimination of the keying thump in my case -- your results may vary depending on the power supply you use.

2. Transmit/Receive switching click.

There is a slight "click" in the audio output when the rig switches from transmit to receive. Norbert also posted a fix for this: I haven't installed it yet because the above described "thump" was much more annoying to me than the "click". Now that the "thump" is gone, guess I'll now do something about the "click".

Norbert's fix is as follows:

Break the trace going to pin 11 of U8 on the audio board and insert a 0.1uF cap; also add a 100K resistor from pin 11 of U8 to ground. This eliminates DC being applied to C29 every time U8 switches on, which is reported to be the cause of the "click".

3. Eliminating/Reducing receiver "birdies"

There are several spurious signals present in the PLUS receiver, most of very low intensity but a few in the S1 to S3 range. There is also a problem with very strong signals on 80M on or near the frequency used by W1AW bulletins (can't recall frequency at the moment...) The fix for the "W1AW problem" suggested by INDEX is to move the shield of the coax running from the LO to the RF boards to the ground end of L5 on the LO board. This seems to eliminate the problem, but some reports indicate that it induces more "birdies" into the receiver. Well, I think I have (at least a partial) cure for the problem!

There is a "ground buss" on the component side of the LO board between the microprocessor and associated digital stuff and the local oscillator circuitry -- the shield of the LO output coax was originally connected to this ground buss. I decided to see what effect installing additional shielding between the microprocessor and LO would have, and soldered a strip of 0.025 x 0.25 inch brass (obtained from a local hobby store) vertically to the ground buss. I also moved the coax shield to the ground end of L5 and made sure the coax was routed away from the digital side of the board.

The end result: Most of the "spurs" previously noted on 160, 80 and 40 meters are either gone completely or drastically reduced! Examples: a "multiple tone" spur around 3845.6 which was originally S3 is now just above the noise; a similar spur around 7142.2 went from S1 to just above the noise. In addition, a spur at 10.000 MHz that made WWV almost impossible to copy is now less than S1. The down side: a spur at 21164.4 went from S1 to S2 -- oh well, you can't win 'em all!

I did a similar thing (i.e., added vertical shielding) to the two ground buss strips on the RF board. It appears that this may have reduced "blow-by" around the xtal filter, but I don't have any quantitative data to prove it. Anyway, it does not seem to have hurt anything.

72, Larry W1HUE/7

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Cosmo224@aol.com
Subject: [4376] QRP+ xverter driver
Message-ID: <960216190036_424501557@emout09.mail.aol.com>

Greetings all

I have heard that the QRP+ can be adapted to drive a transverter
by splitting the RX and TX lines. Is this possible and has anyone
on the net done this?

73/72 de AA9IL
Mike Kana

For real QRP, try MICROWAVES!

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Ken Newman N2CQ <103464.1355@compuserve.com>

Subject: [4338] QRP-L Reader S/W
Message-ID: <960216155838_103464.1355_IHI47-1@CompuServe.COM>

I seem to be getting behind in my reading QRP-L postings.
I Here the might be some better software to read textfiles.
Anyone know of any that is better than MSDOS Editor that I use?

****
Ken - N2CQ   QRP-L #399   ARCI # 7975
****

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Greg Prior <73517.3652@compuserve.com>
Subject: [4347] QRP-L web page?
Message-ID: <960216162723_73517.3652_HHB70-1@CompuServe.COM>

I recollect reading that the qrp-l list was available on a web page. Can anyone point me to this?

Thanks, Greg AC6IY

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: V$BCIESLAK@qtiworld.com
Subject: [4346] QST construction article
Message-ID: <01I1A0DYNVPE00A081@hub.qgraph.com>

I've waited long enough but here it goes.

I notice that no said anything about the microprocessor based construction article in the latest QST....The author has made the hex code code available at an ftp site for those of use who can program 6805J1's.

Yippeee!

Brian AE9K

(yes it is a little slow at work to day)

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996

From: Jim Eshleman <lujce@hooch.CC.Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [4325] RUFZ 2.12e PC Contest Simulation
Message-ID: <96Feb16.093520est.57461-14900+1@hooch.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

Gang,

  Thanks to K5FO, the RUFZ PC Contest Simulation from DL4MM is available via anonymous ftp:

    ftp://ftp.lehigh.edu/pub/listserv/qrp-l/tools/rufz.zip

or send the following command, in the body of an e-mail, to listserv@Lehigh.EDU to obtain the file in UUEncode format via e-mail:

    GET QRP-L/TOOLS RUFZ.ZIP

73
Jim N3VXI

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: vhatley@usa.pipeline.com (Vernon Hatley)
Subject: [4329] Server problems
Message-ID: <199602161501.PAA13835@pipe14.h1.usa.pipeline.com>

Hi gang,
     Sorry for this non-qrp messege, but...When I tried to get the QRP-L Digest #271 my e-mail said there was an attached file; no problem; except that when I attempted to get it, it locked up the computer. No kidding. This is the second time in two months this has happened. I've tried it over and over with the same results. What I would like to know, was there anything "different" or "unusual" about Digest #271? Was there really an attached file? If not, then I am afraid I have server problems. Please respond direct, maybe I will get it that way. Thanks.

--
KK5RO   OHR Explorer II
Vernon A. Hatley   Ten Tec Century 21
QRP-L #325   Butternut Vertical
(stuck at 46 states & 36 countries)

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: torell@sicom.com (Kent Torell)
Subject: [4330] solar forcast
Message-ID: <v02130500ad4a49a15fcb@[192.91.202.41]>

Here is the weekly forcast from Canada. Hopefully Paul will come up with a more readable one from his sources :-) Looks like a geo-storm over the weekend due to a coronal hole...note the reduced muf predictions on the 18th :-(

SOLAR TERRESTRIAL DISPATCH
(INTERNET: COLER@SOLAR.STANFORD.EDU)

Report Released by the Solar Terrestrial Dispatch
P.O. Box 357, Stirling, Alberta, Canada, T0K 2E0
Accessible BBS System: (403) 756-3008

INTERNET FTP: solar.uleth.ca (in pub/solar)
INTERNET FINGER: finger solar@solar.uleth.ca
INTERNET WWW: http://solar.uleth.ca/solar

Near-Real-Time Propagation Maps: http://solar.uleth.ca/solar

WEEKLY STFR FORECAST VALID: 16 February to 25 February 1996

	10.7 cm	HF Propagation								Mag	Aurora		
	SolrFlx	LO	MI	HI	PO	SWF	%MUF	%	K Ap		LO	MI	HI
Feb 16	070	G	G	F	F	01	00	75	2 10		NV	NV	LO
17	072	G	G	F	F	01	-05	75	2 12		NV	NV	LO
18	072	G	G	P	P	01	-15	70	4 15		NV	LO	MO
19	072	G	G	P	F	01	-10	70	3 12		NV	NV	MO
20	073	G	G	F	F	01	-05	70	2 08		NV	NV	LO
21	073	G	G	F	F	01	00	70	2 05		NV	NV	LO
22	073	G	G	F	F	01	00	70	2 05		NV	NV	LO
23	073	G	G	F	F	01	00	70	2 05		NV	NV	LO
24	073	G	G	F	F	01	00	70	2 05		NV	NV	LO
25	073	G	G	F	F	01	00	70	2 05		NV	NV	LO

72, de ab7oa   (don't forget to listen for the Az SQRPIONS sat!)

Kent Torell   torell@sicom.com   602-483-2867 x40
SICOM   7585 E. Redfield, #202   Scottsdale, AZ   85260

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: plquick@facstaff.wisc.edu (Paulette Quick, N9OUH)
Subject: [4341] Soldering
Message-ID: <v02110101ad4a06a47f4c@[144.92.104.160]>

Ok guys,

I thought one absolutely must use a wet sponge to wipe off the tip of the soldering iron after each weld.

A good friend here simply dips the iron tip into a tin of solid flux.

KF50 uses a dry cloth.

Someone else says that using the wet sponge lowers the iron temperature (and I use a 25w Weller) enough to compromise the bonding process.

So what's the best technique?

And how the heck are you fortunate folks finding $5 soldering stations at garage sales? I'm green with oxidation over your luck. Chance? Neighborhoods near hi-tech manufacturing plants? I want to know your secret.

72 de N9OUH
Paulette Quick
from Madison, WI (city of that fox hunting wizard, WA9PWP)

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Thom <thom@li.net>

Subject: [4331] St. Louis Tuner
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.960216101306.14716A-100000@linet01>

Hi all,

  I was wondering if anyone has heard if NorCal has started shipping the latest batch of St. Louis Tuners? When I sent my order in, Jim told me that they were looking for a suitable variable capacitor and hoped to get them out shortly.

I noticed that my check cleared recently, so maybe they're on the way!

Thanks
Tom
WB2QDG

thom@li.net

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: "ERICKA J. MCCARRON" <erickam@mci.newscorp.com>
Subject: [4320] test message
Message-ID: <199602160413.XAA32725@kafka.iguide.com>

Test Message

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Russ1031@aol.com
Subject: [4378] The Surreptitious QRP Expedition
Message-ID: <960216202637_424563854@emout04.mail.aol.com>

Today was beautiful in Oregon, so my wife and I decided to shut down the family publishing company and play hooky. We loaded the cross country skis in the truck and headed for the high country.

Our destination was Ikenick Ridge, about 50 minutes from home. My wife was under the impression that we were on a cross country ski trip. In reality, we were on a surreptitious QRP expendition.

I'm hooked on terrain. Ever since I read Les Moxon's book "HF Antennas for

All Locations," especially the parts relating to the antenna in its environment, I've been scouring the high country in Oregon looking for the perfect terrain. I've now modeled quite a few mountain tops on the computer, using Brian Beezley's terrain analyzer. The computer had already told me that Ikenick Ridge might be marginal for radio propagation, but it's a handsome place and I was hoping to find some aspects of the terrain the topographic maps had missed.

The two of us had the mountain to ourselves. We skied to the top of the ridge on an abandoned logging road, dodging the elk tracks in the snow. You forget how big elk are until see their tracks in a snowy enviroment. They were like craters on the moon. The forest enveloped us, but there were occasional openings that revealed Three Finger Jack to the north and the Three Sisters to the south.

I had my eye out for two things: a beautiful place for a human-powered QRP expedition and terrain that reinforced low angle radiation from the humble sort of antenna you can carry in your backpack. I found the first but didn't encounter the second.

In a way, this was the best possible outcome. Now I've got an excuse to play hooky again, looking for just the right terrain.

Russ Carpenter, AA7QU, McKenzie River, Oregon

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: meh@cbsms1.cb.att.com (m.e.hartwell)
Subject: [4366] Trip to Naperville Ill Area
Message-ID: <199602162107.QAA24127@emsr1.emsr.att.com>

Hello All

I will be in the Naperville Ill. area all next week on busness. Are there any members of this list in that area? Maybe an evening get together at an area pizza joint to discuss the low side of 40 meters or some other radio related topics.
I get the list in digest form so will be checking in this week end and all next week also.

Be looking for you.

Marty kd8bj

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Larry East <LVE1@inel.gov>
Subject: [4336] RE: "Real QRP"
Message-ID: <2.2.16.19960216155533.25bf8fc8@garnet.inel.gov>

> rossi@VFL.Paramax.COM wrote:
>
> |I was just thinking.. Someone should define "true QRP" to be:
> |
> |5 watts or less into a single element antenna.
>
>
>
> a-OOOOO-gah   a-ooooo-gah   Dive! Dive! Dive! Rat-hole alert!
>
> For those of you who missed the last time this went around,
> in addition please be prepared to discuss:
>
> -is using a 7-ele quad really qrp?
> -is using a $3000 radio really qrp?
> -is using a spotting network and a keyboard keyer really qrp?
> -is using commercial power or a DSP really qrp?
>
I knew it! I knew I shouldn't have made that *&^%! comment about using a
$50K antenna not being in the spirit of "true QRP"!! Please oh please lets
NOT get started on this again!!

Oh please forgive my sins and trespasses, great God of the List!!

72, Larry W1HUE/7

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Monte Stark <ku7y@sage.dri.edu>
Subject: [4340] RE: "Real QRP"
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.90.960216080710.6872C-100000@vortex.sage.dri.edu>

On Fri, 16 Feb 1996, Larry East wrote:

>   SNIP

> Oh please forgive my sins and trespasses, great God of the List!!

>
> 72, Larry W1HUE/7
>

Oh No, do you mean to tell me that you posted without getting the OK
from the great God of the List?

73, Ron,

.....KU7Y.....ARCI #8829.....Monte "Ron" Stark.....
...ku7y@sage.dri.edu.....Sun Valley, Nevada....
...QRP-L #17....ARRL....NorCal #330.....NRA LIFE......

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Bill Acito 16-Feb-1996 1131 <acito@asdg.ENET.dec.com>
Subject: [4350] RE: "Real QRP"
Message-ID: <9602161652.AA29939@us1rmc.bb.dec.com>

        Ron, ku7y@sage.dri.edu wrote:

        |Oh No, do you mean to tell me that you posted without getting the OK
        |from the great God of the List?

        Am I being arogant if I think that was a zing in my direction?
        :-)

        I just thought it's really humorous how I've being following this
        list long enough to have certain subjects come up every once in a
        while that make you cringe abit, because you suddenly remember
        the exchanges that occurred last time.

        And although not in this case, I pity the newbies who join this
        list and step on one of the hot buttons without knowing it.
        Yikes. :-)

        Although kicked around a bit, I think it's a good topic,
        worth some intelligent discussion. I also agree that we can
        disagree, agreeably (Covey said that).

        ...

And if the arrow was aimed at me, I'll get off my mountain and
come down and wallow with the rest of ya. :-)

...

btw, I'll answer my own question on the Gap Titan. Gap uses 5%,
500v mica caps encapsulated in resin, 1800 to 3000pf range to set
the center point on the 75/80m bands. They quoted 100w max if you
use a tuner, other wise you risk melting the internal coax.

Jess sent me a list of values if anyone wants them (Gap sells
them, too).

b

. . . . . - I own my own words - . . . . . .
Bill Acito
acito@asdg.enet.dec.com
|d|i|g|i|t|a|l| Digital Equipment Corporation Hudson, MA

KC1GS .:. qrp-ne .:. qrp-l .:. qrp-arci .:. norcal .:. arrl life .:.

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Monte Stark <ku7y@sage.dri.edu>
Subject: [4357] RE: "Real QRP"
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.90.960216105315.7555G-100000@vortex.sage.dri.edu>

Bill,

No, no zing aimed at you! That was just a little friendly
jab at Larry.

I belong to a Toastmasters club that has politics as it's
theme. Over 45 members, from the extreme left to the extreme
right. Talk about agreeing to disagree!

cul,

73, Ron,

.....KU7Y.....ARCI #8829.....Monte "Ron" Stark.....
...ku7y@sage.dri.edu.....Sun Valley, Nevada....
...QRP-L #17....ARRL....NorCal #330.....NRA LIFE.....

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: nu6u-1@w6trw.ampr.org
Subject: [4369] Re: "Real QRP"
Message-ID: <11269@w6trw.ampr.org>

Oh come on guys, this is my favorite theme "Real QRP".

I sort of think of it as the modernists against the minimalists.
You know, The modernists says:

QRP should be done with state of the art equipment, using the
current popular modes of transmission. eg. an FT1000D cranked
down to 5 watts feeding Yagi's an various altitudes and
operating cloverII. The minimalist then chimes in with comments
about oscillators loosely coupled to end fed magnet wire
antennas; which are taped to the ceiling of the basement....

love it [smile].

72's max (nu6u)

Oh, I wonder if the dot dash ratio of the FT 1000D is 1:3:1....

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Paul Harden <pharden@aoc.nrao.edu>
Subject: [4368] Re: 49er Info
Message-ID: <199602162226.PAA09919@zia.aoc.nrao.edu>

Roger and others,
I got a flyer the otherday from Buckeye Electronics. Never done
business with them before, but plan an order shortly. Anyway, he
seems to have some neat stuff, like a kit of 22 popular toroids for
$4.75, vernier drives, and other kinda hard to find stuff. I did
notice he has NE602's for $2 each and 10 for $15. You might try him
for your NE602's.

I left the flyer at home and can only find his address here at work.

It is: Buckeye Electronics
        10213 Columbus Grove Rd.
        Bluffton, OH 45817
email: buckeye@alpha.wcoil.com

Standard disclaimer applies: Even if he paid me to say nice things,
I'd still deny it and plead innocence.

If you do order from him, please let me know how his service and
parts availability is.

Paul NA5N

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Bill Acito 16-Feb-1996 1636 <acito@asdg.ENET.dec.com>
Subject: [4364] RE: Code Speed, etc.
Message-ID: <9602162137.AA19637@us1rmc.bb.dec.com>

        One of the best practice opportunities for CW is the weekend...

        ARRL DX CW

        For those of us in coastal New England, we won't have much else
        to do. I'll be hunting and pouncing on 40, 20, and 15 (if it
        opens). See ya there...

        b

    .   .   .   .   .   . - I own my own words - .   .   .   .   .   .
    Bill Acito
    acito@asdg.enet.dec.com
    |d|i|g|i|t|a|l| Digital Equipment Corporation Hudson, MA

    KC1GS   .:. qrp-ne .:. qrp-l .:. qrp-arci .:. norcal .:. arrl life .:.

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Bernard Seront <seront@seism1.ess.sunysb.edu>
Subject: [4356] Re: Copyright
Message-ID: <2.2.32.19960216191013.006e12e8@seism1.ess.sunysb.edu>

At 12:42 PM 2/16/96 EST, PDouglas12@aol.com wrote:
>Gang,
>
..
>
>To put others on notice that you do not want them using your words without
>permission, you put on a notice of copyright. The notice has three
>elements: 1. a "C" in a circle (difficult to do online) or the word
>"copyright" . 2. The year of first publication. 3. The name of the
>copyright holder. The purpose of the notice is to tell a potential poacher
>that he has no excuse or defense that his copying was "innocent."
>

Well I don't really want to try to correct a layer speaking about laws, as
my main knowledge field is in Rock Mechanics (which has nothing to do with
"fixing rocks", but is the study of the mechanical properties of rocks!).

But, as far as i know, things are not exactly as Preston says (sorry
Preston, but I know you will not be offended by my intervention).

Something somebody writes is copyrighted, even if there is no mention of any
type, saying so. So you cannot pretend that it is ok to use, or re-publish
.., it without any problem, if there is no mention of the copyright on it.

Let me rephrase the important part: you ALWAYS need to ask permission, even
if the author didn't explicitly stated it's copyrighted.

Sure it helps to put the copyright notice, especially if you need to go on
court for the matter. But anyway, for what we speak about (articles in
hobbyist newsletters, almost no financial issue), don't think you can get a
lot in court.

There is a faq on the subject:

http://www.cis.ohio-state.edu/hypertext/faq/usenet/Copyright-FAQ/top.html

Look it out for yourself, (it is quite interesting) as I cannot quote some
parts of it here for obvious copyright reasons, :-).
(If needed I can explain how to get it by email, or Jim may want to put it
on the ftp server).

Bernard, KB2TGH.

Bernard Seront, seront@seism1.ess.sunysb.edu
http://rock.ess.sunysb.edu:8080/

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: PDouglas12@aol.com
Subject: [4360] Re: Copyright
Message-ID: <960216150219_424312932@emout10.mail.aol.com>

Bernard, mon ami, vous avez raison,
Good thing I kept a copy of my posting.
Yes, as I thought I said, perhaps inelegantly, you already own your words without putting on the notice. That means they are automatically copyright to the author. But with the notice, you remove the "defense based on innocent infringement in mitigation of actual or statutory damages...." (17 U.S.C. sec. 401) That is a direct quote from the statute. You can't get better authority than that.
(And see the Berne Convention for foreign rules.)
This was a fundamental change in the law which occurred in 1976, to remove the problem of people inadvertantly putting their works into the public domain by making a mistake on the copyright notice. Now, it is copyright from the start. But do not think that you should leave off the notice! If you really have any intention of making a fuss with a poacher, put it on.
 Don't cost nuttin'.

72, Preston

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Byron8LCZ@aol.com
Subject: [4381] Re: More and More on code practice
Message-ID: <960216220240_424625909@emout04.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 96-02-16 11:12:56 EST, you write:

>our radio club did an experiment with a tape prepared that some one spoke
>out random letters at various speed. When you heard 'A' you wrote down A.
>etc. Amazingly enough even the youngest ham could copy at a rate of 30 wpm
>with only a few missed characters. (30 is as high as we went). So they had
>no problem hearing the characters and writing them down because they were
>extremely familiar with the sounds of the letters.
>
>Now just imagine if you knew the code well enough so when you heard
"dit-dah"
>you wrote down an 'A' jsut as if you head some one say "A".
>
>You just have to know the code just a well as you know the alphabet.
>(Now if I only new how to type as well as I can write down a character I'ld
>be in good shape)
>

>Brian AE9K
>
>

Hi Brian,

The other thing thats happens, is you learn to copy one or two characters behind. this gives you some breathing room and a chance to decode the dit dahs, then convince your fingers what keys to hit and do it, or what letters to write and do it. Some of the pros in the Navy, would copy a word behind, and eat while they're copying code, at 25 to 30 wpm. Some could even carry on a conversation with another radioman, and still copy 5 letter coded groups correctly. Amazing ! But then, they did it for a living.

But that was structured code. always five letters in a group, no punctuation, no unusual abbreviations, and nothing to read, just random letters. You become detached from the message.

Knowing the code completely, without any question, also helps the overall speed. and that takes lots of practice. Copying code and reading it, at the same time, is harder, but its also more fun. Code never came easy for me. it was always a struggle. but then, i'm still doing it, after 32 years. The challenge keeps me comming back for more.

Typing was one of the most useful courses I ever took, in high school. Used it in school, then on Navy teletype circuits, typing up messages, copying code, then later doing newsletters on a typewriter, and later still doing cad at work and computers at home. It should be a required or highly recommended course.

72, Byron WA8LCZ

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Monte Stark <ku7y@sage.dri.edu>
Subject: [4345] Re: More on code practice
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.90.960216073911.6872A-100000@vortex.sage.dri.edu>

On Fri, 16 Feb 1996 mack@mails.imed.com wrote:

Congratulations!

I would like to offer a couple of observations as a bit of food
for thought.....

> SNIP

> code, but rather being able to write it down without thinking about
> how I do that task. Each character except "l" and "1" requires at
> least 2 strokes of the pencil;

In high speed radio operatiors school at Camp Gordon, GA, way back
in 1954, we were required to print the letters "army style". Only
one stroke of the pen per leter and all letters strated at the
bottom of the letter, not at the top or in the middle. We had to
qualify by coping 25 wpm with 5 letter code groups. Not only did the
letter have to be the right one, it also had to be drawn the proper
way and be legible to be "right"!

I was already at about 30 wpm when I went into the army. But I did
have to learn to copy on paper, including a mill, and to send at 25
wpm with a hand key. So there was lots of things keeping me busy. Really
wasn't too hard.

> A friend of my wife who is an Occupational Therapist
> also reminded me that I am left handed and that the design of the
> letters is backwards for us which makes it doubly hard.
>

I am also left handed but I would reject that idea in a second! That
sounds to me like just another excuse, waiting to be given to someone
who is looking for an external reason for their own problem! The next
logical extention to that thought is to have both right handed and
left handed letters......

>
> I hope my experiences can be of help to others trying to increase
> their speed.
>
> Ray Mack
> WD5IFS/AA
> mack@mails.imed.com
>

Thanks for sharing your experiences. They may very well help someone
else find a way to get past their own stumbling block.

And again, congratulations for doing whatever you needed to do to get
the job done!

cul,

73, Ron,

.....KU7Y.....ARCI #8829.....Monte "Ron" Stark.....
...ku7y@sage.dri.edu.....Sun Valley, Nevada....
...QRP-L #17....ARRL....NorCal #330.....NRA LIFE.....

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: kimitsuka_glen <glenk@dsg.tandem.com>
Subject: [4353] Re: More on code practice
Message-ID: <9602161739.AA16306@tan.dsg.tandem.com>

>I called 2 VE people before deciding which session to attend. One
>absolutely refused to let me use the computer to copy. The other said
>it was quite acceptable and part of what they are required to do to
>accomodate the physical needs of exam candidates. This site was held
>by a very friendly and supportive team of examiners!
>
>I hope my experiences can be of help to others trying to increase
>their speed.
>
>Ray Mack
>WD5IFS/AA
>mack@mails.imed.com
>
>
The Santa Clara ARRL VE allow code exams with keyboards, laptops, etc.
We only require:
  1. A simple text editor be used. (no spell checking)
  2. We are allowed to view the copy immediately after the test.
  3. If the keyboard clicks are noisy, you are required to wait to
      take the test alone to avoid disturbing other examinees.

So far, the computer code practice hams have done very well, since their
  practice has been on keyboard, their "automatic" response to code
  characters is faster. The only exception was one poor fellow that accidently
  pulled the plug on his old laptop and lost his copy.   Another problem
  I've seen has been code speed miscalibration of software. What one
  thought was 13wpm was really 10-11.

Regards, Glen KM6WR

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: JEVERHART@cayman.vf.mmc.com

Subject: [4354] Re: More on code practice
Message-ID: <960216122830.23a230b4@carib.vf.mmc.com>

Gang,
I've gotta echo what Ron, WU7Y says about the "single-stroke" printed alphabet. It's a very good way to keep up your writing speed when you're copying code.

I didn't learn it in the Army, however. `Way back in 1960, when I first learned Morse (how many of yoy weren't born yet in 1960?), the ARRL had diagrams of the single-stroke alphabet. My ocde instructor insisted that becoming proficent in hihg pseed printing. In facr, to this day, I print everything this way! Wonder if ARRL still has the method in their cw training material...

OTOH, I find it easier to write in script for code praqctice. Not sure how it would be to start out this way....

Just my 2 cents.

72/73,

Joe E., N2CX

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Glen Leinweber <leinwebe@mcmail.CIS.McMaster.CA>
Subject: [4337] Re: National Semiconductor devices
Message-ID: <1996Feb16.105504-0500@[130.113.234.7]>

In <199602160336.UAA18483@usr5.primenet.com>, Roger Hightower wrote:
>Hi all. I just found a cool homepage for National Semiconductor, with data
>sheets
>and specs on their products. Try:
>
>   http://www.webdirect.natsemi.com
>
>This leads me to a query: What is the difference between an LM-380 and an
>LM-380N? Still learning this stuff, and need to know.
>
Roger,
     Those letters at the end of the part number usually tell you something about the package the chip is mounted in. Seems to me that "N" is the plastic dual-in-line package, with leads down each side: most logic chips use this format. Another is the "H" suffix, which denotes the metal can type package, with a bunch of wire legs coming out the bottom.

You guys looking for the 8-pin version of the LM380 probably want the LM380N-8. (the LM380N is the 14 pin version, I think).

Not all manufacturers have standardized on a suffix system, for instance, Motorola use "P" to denote the plastic dual-in-line package, where National Semi uses "N".

These days, when you're ordering from people like Digi-Key (who are supplying lots of surface mount stuff) you really have to watch out for the package - you could get one of the really tiny surface mounted chips instead of what you really wanted. I see that Texas Instruments often supply the same chip in the standard DIP package or any of the following (this is for a popular op-amp, the TL084, or TL081, or TL082):

Package	Suffix	# pins
Small outline	D008	8
Small outline	D014	14
Chip carrier	FK	20
Ceramic DIP	J	14
Ceramic DIP	JG	8
Plastic DIP	N	14
Plastic DIP	P	8

In this case, the small outline is a tiny surface mounted chip unsuitable for most of us. The chip carrier is also a surface mounted device made for re-flow soldering; again, not for most of us.
The ceramic dips usually have a military temperature range rating, and are more expensive, but have the pin format that most of us want.
Most of us would want the N or P plastic packages for our projects.

Roger's suggestion to look at National semi's web page is a good one. They have a system to download
complete spec sheets for their chips, complete with all the charts and graphs of chip performance, just like you'd see in their data books. They require you to download a software package called "ACROBAT". This is an enhanced POSTSCRIPT drawing package, for Windows, or Mac's. Its a little big (1.5 MEG), but with it you'll have an online up-to-date data book at your fingertips.
Glen VE3DNL leinwebe@mcmail.mcmaster.ca

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: aa7qy@primenet.com (Roger Hightower)
Subject: [4351] Re: National Semiconductor devices
Message-ID: <199602161716.KAA03140@usr3.primenet.com>

>Date: Fri, 16 Feb 1996 08:56:00 -0700
>From: Paul Harden <pharden@aoc.nrao.edu>
>To: aa7qy@primenet.com

>Subject: Re: National Semiconductor devices
>
>Roger (and others):
>Most semiconductor manufacturers use a host of letters and numbers
>following the basic part number to signify revision/accuracy
>improvements and the packaging.
>
>For example,
> LM99A would be a newer revision/improved version of a LM99
> LM99AN = plastic DIP package
> LM99AJ = ceramic DIP package, etc.
>
>Particularly in the case of linear IC's, the packaging codes are
>important, as many devices we amateurs use (op amps, etc.) are
>available in 8-pin AND 14-pin flavors, not to mention TO-5 type
>metal cans and the various surface mounted packaging.
>
>In the case of the LM380 audio amplifiers ...
>They are available in two flavors:
> LM380N-8   8-pin plastic DIP
> LM380N   14-pin plastic DIP
>
>You MUST specify "-8" to get the 8-pin type, otherwise the 14 pin
>version will be assumed. AND, since only the plastic DIP types
>are available on the LM380, (no ceramic or SMC's), then by default,
>an LM380 = LM380N (implying the 14-pin type).
>
>Don't worry, I'm going crazy myself on the "QRP Data Book" trying
>to show all these variations. They go on forever.
>
>Paul NA5N
>
>

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: [4343] Re: Newsletter Articles
Message-ID: <199602161616.QAA19627@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Bob et.al.,

If someone writes something up that appears on this list,
you must write to them and ask their permission. Although
the Internet is somewhat of an open forum, the material
that flows across it is not. A lot people still haven't

gotten the big picture. Heard on the news this a.m. that
17,000,000 people are estimated to be on the Internet
now "surfing".

We've had problems in the past with this (copying) and we
try to prevent misunderstandings from happening in the future.

I and others on qrp-l have had our stuff appear without permission
and without being forewarned that it was going to be published
in newsletters. All editors/publishers/etc. please get
permission from the author before copying etc. It makes
everyone happier.

This topic is rather timely in that I'm going through the
QRZ! CDROM and finding some of my stuff on there from this
list. Some with credit and some without. I even ran across
some stuff from AC4HF in which he references somestuff that
I said in private mail. I'm sure that he didn't know that
he was going to be on the ROM either.

There are several issues at stake here IMHO:

1. How much stuff should be recycled through N newsletters
    where N is large? I take about all of them and I like
    to read new stuff in every issue.

2. How often should it be recycled in the same newsletter.
    I've seen stuff reappear in QQ that was in from previous
    years. Some is understandable 'cuz the audience changes
    over the years.

3. I personally will promise someone like Doug KI6DS first and
    only rights to an article in QRPp for a couple of reasons.
    I think that a lot of people get tired of hearing from me
    and they surely don't want the same article appear in
    short order in a number of places. I get requests all
    the time from others and I will try to fulfill them, but
    all with new material. Sometimes deadlines jump up and
    I don't have enough lead time. So let me know as far
    ahead as possible.

4. The lawyers can jump on this one and remember I'm not
    lawyer, but I have supported a few in my time. :-)
    It is the issue of being non-profit and why would one
    hold a copyright of printed material? Seems counter
    productive and I would think the IRS would have a
    field day on this one. Not that they don't have enough
    to do as it is. :-) I know that it is to keep someone

> else from profiting from it, but still the concept
> seems strange to me.

One of the things that everyone has to keep in mind on qrp-l.
Everything that you say and do here is recorded forever.

In fact, this group started in 1993. Here are some interesting
numbers:

```
1993    4.836MB in the archives
1994   10.397MB
1995   20.589MB
1996    4.077MB so far
```

and by the end of this month we will have generated 40MB total!!!
Of course, this includes mail headers etc. but at least everything
is dated and time stamped to eliminate "historical modification".

I don't recommend for the faint of heart that everyone go back and
read everything. :-) For those who are new to the list and you
see someone make some remark "Oh No - not again" or "Let me kill
this off" or "I'll start this one again", it's because the longer
subscribers to this list have "been there - done that". We can
pretty much set our calendars by when a certain topic is going
to "bust loose" on this group. :-)

If you have ftp access to FTP.LEHIGH.EDU and you have 40MB of
disk space just begging to be used, by all means go over and
get it. It'll give you something to do in your spare time.
"You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll kiss your 40MB goodbye".

dit dit (the story behind this signature is embedded in
          the archives)

--
Chuck Adams (K5FO CP-60) adams@sgi.com
Box 181150, Dallas, TX 75218-8150

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: aa7qy@primenet.com (Roger Hightower)
Subject: [4323] Re: QRP Afield April 1996
Message-ID: <199602161409.HAA04623@usr4.primenet.com>

At 08:28 AM 2/16/96 EST, chuck adams wrote:
>

>I note that for the above they are allowing
>30M. We, i.e. the NorTex Group, did not know
>that during the last contest (at least from the
>comments from the last contest) that people
>were looking on 30M.

I think that NorCal ought to reconsider this. Even though the event is "not a contest", the routine of sending a contest-type exchange could trigger a bunch of criticism, or worse yet, give some QRO people the idea that 30M is open to contesting, and then it's gone.

I believe there is still that "gentlemen's agreement" not to use 30M for contesting. Pse let's not violate that and open the bucket.

72/73, de Roger, AA7QY

NorCal 1099   CoQRP 176 QRP-L 62   G-QRP 9081 ARCI 8946 NE-QRP 383

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Richard E Robinson <rerobins@uncc.edu>
Subject: [4328] Re: QRP Afield April 1996
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.91.960216094800.13961C-100000@unccsun>

On Fri, 16 Feb 1996, Roger Hightower wrote:

> I believe there is still that "gentlemen's agreement" not to use 30M for
> contesting. Pse let's not violate that and open the bucket.

I wondered why 30m was never used for contesting. I hope this applies to all 3 WARC bands. I've had good QRPing on all 3. Let's leave them as a haven for non-contesters.

72/73,

Rick kf4ar
rerobins@uncc.edu

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: bcutter@teal.csn.net (Bob Cutter)
Subject: [4332] Re: QRP Afield April 1996
Message-ID: <199602161525.IAA21338@lynx.csn.net>

I agree, let's stay away from 30M.
>
QBF?   ZUE

Bob Cutter, ...Glenwood Springs, CO

KI0G

bcutter@teal.csn.net

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Joe Gervais <vole@primenet.com>
Subject: [4321] Re: QRP Antennas for 40 meters
Message-ID: <199602160708.AAA17733@usr2.primenet.com>

Bill, acito@asdg.ENET.dec.com, wrote:
>
> rossi@VFL.Paramax.COM wrote:
>]
>] I was just thinking.. Someone should define "true QRP" to be:
>]
>] 5 watts or less into a single element antenna.
>
> a-OOOOO-gah   a-ooooo-gah   Dive! Dive! Dive! Rat-hole alert!
>
> For those of you who missed the last time this went around,
> in addition please be prepared to discuss:
>
>   -is using a 7-ele quad really qrp?
>   -is using a $3000 radio really qrp?
>   -is using a spotting network and a keyboard keyer really qrp?
>   -is using commercial power or a DSP really qrp?
>
> :-) :-) :-) smiles and humor intended

Amen and pass the wattmeter!

Now that we've put this matter to rest ahead of schedule,
we'll have more time to argue over whether kits are
homebrew or not...

:-)

Hey, it was a joke. Honest. I was kidding. Put down that
butane soldering torch. Hey! HEY!!!

Fleeing with great haste,

-Joe, KC7NEV, vole@primenet.com

QRP WAS: 29 States worked since Aug '95, 21 to go!

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: [4327] Re: RUFZ 2.12e PC Contest Simulation
Message-ID: <199602161445.OAA19183@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Jim,

My public thanks for putting the above on the ftp site
and your continued support with both time and hardware
for the qrp-l and other groups.

dit dit
--
Chuck Adams (K5FO CP-60) adams@sgi.com
Box 181150, Dallas, TX 75218-8150

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: Pat Taber <ptaber@logicraft.com>
Subject: [4348] Re: Soldering
Message-ID: <199602161640.LAA95974@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

>So what's the best technique?
>
The one that works for you. If you find cleaning the tip each time gets you
a good solder joint, then do it. If you find it doesn't then try one of the
other techniques. Personally, I clean the tip each time I put the iron down
and again just before I start a series of solder joints. It might be that
the series is one diode or 25 resistors, it doesn't really matter. I clean
after I'm done and before I start. (I will stop and clean in the middle of a
long run of parts if the tip is starting to look too gross.) It does lower
the tip temp for some fraction of a second, but by the time I've adjusted
everything prior to setting the tip to the board/component junction it's had
plenty of time to reheat.

>>>==>PStJTT

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From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Fri Feb 16 22:27:41 1996
From: "N1OOQ Tom R. @ MRO1 16-Feb-1996 1311" <randolph@est.ENET.dec.com>
Subject: [4355] re: Soldering
Message-ID: <9602161821.AA22504@us4rmc.pko.dec.com>

> I thought one absolutely must use a wet sponge to wipe off the tip of the
> soldering iron after each weld.

Nope. Before each. Let it sit in the stand with the solder and flux residue from the previous bond on it. This helps keep it tinned, as the thick layer of solder and whatnot blocks oxidation.

I never had much luck using dry objects to clean the tip. A very wet sponge for me. Don't linger on the sponge... little slashing wipes don't cool it much.

> And how the heck are you fortunate folks finding $5 soldering stations at
> garage sales? I'm green with oxidation over your luck. Chance?

Work for a big company, check out the trash dumpsters once in a while. That scored an old Weller or two for another ham here. I got mine at a flea market for $10. Turned out both the transformer and the element were dead, but that other ham had scrounged enough to let me pull a good transformer from one of them... Elements and tips are cheap.

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